Claims

1. A method of operating a computerized system having a recording device for recording data, the method comprising:

    scheduling a data recording for a time; and

    outputting a reminder signal at a predetermined time before the time of the data recording.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

    starting the data recording at the time.

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3. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

    receiving input to cancel the data recording after outputting the reminder signal.

4. The method of claim 1, further including:

15 receiving user input at least partially determinative of the predetermined time.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein outputting the reminder signal includes outputting a user-perceptible signal.

20 6. The method of claim 1 wherein outputting the reminder signal includes outputting a verbal message, a textual message, or an audible tone.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein outputting a reminder signal includes outputting a message concerning recording media.

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8.   The method of claim 1, wherein scheduling the data recording includes communicating a recording instruction to the computerized system, and wherein outputting the reminder signal includes storing reminder data based on the recording instruction in a database.

9.   The method of claim 8 wherein the recording instruction includes a channel identifier, a start time, and an end time.

10.   The method of claim 1, wherein outputting a reminder signal at the predetermined time before the time of the data recording includes:

     determining a remind time based on the predetermined time and the time of the data recording; and

     comparing a system time to the remind time.

11.   A computerized entertainment system comprising:

     a receiver for receiving a channel signal which carries a plurality of programs;

     a recording device, coupled to the receiver, for recording one of the programs; and

     an output device for outputting a reminder signal before the recording device begins recording the one program.

12.   The computerized entertainment system of claim 11, wherein the output device includes a reminder database for storing a remind time that determines when the reminder signal is output.

13.   The system of claim 11 wherein the output device comprises a computer and a display.

14.   The system of claim 11 wherein the reminder signal is a user-perceptible signal.

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15. The system of claim 11 wherein the reminder signal includes a verbal message, a visible message, or an audible tone.

16. The system of claim 11 wherein the reminder signal includes a message concerning recording media.

17. A computer comprising reminder-generation software, the reminder-generation software comprising instructions for:

scheduling a read-write data storage device to record data at a future time; and

outputting a reminder signal at a predetermined time before the future time.

18. The computer of claim 17, wherein the reminder-generation software further comprises instructions for:

receiving input from the user-interface device to prevent data recording at the future time, after outputting the reminder signal.

19. The computer of claim 18, wherein the reminder-generation software further comprises instructions for:

receiving user input through the user-interface device, which is at least partially determinative of the predetermined time.

20. The computer of claim 18, wherein the reminder-generation software instructions for outputting a reminder signal include instructions for including a message concerning recording media as part of the reminder signal.

21. A computer-readable medium comprising instructions for:

scheduling a read-write data storage device to record data at a future time; and

outputting a reminder signal at a predetermined time before the future time.

22. The computer-readable medium of claim 21, further comprising instructions for:

receiving input through a user-interface device to prevent data recording at the

future time, after outputting the reminder signal.

5   23. The computer-readable medium of claim 21, wherein the instructions for outputting

a reminder signal includes instructions for including a message concerning recording

media as part of the reminder signal.

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